

Rooted

Sundays @ 7pm

Termtime from March 2024





walking in **truth**
living in **love**

Welcome

... to St. John's

Rooted: Sunday, 7-8pm: 3, 10, 17 March 2024

Teaching, then Q&A. All welcome. All questions welcome!

Bible Reading:
2 John

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

An introduction to Rooted

- “Rooted and built up in Christ” and “strengthened in the faith” (Col. 2.6-7)
- **An hour-long, term-time, modular, topical teaching service with integrated Q&A.**
- No livestream but recording and slides available afterwards.
- Low maintenance, but maybe live music and refreshments to come?
- Occasional “praise specials”: Palm Sunday

Welcome to St John's

- Week 1: "walking in truth, living in love"
- Week 2: "walking in truth ..."
- Week 3: "... living in love"
- Weeks 2 and 3 will be (in part at least!) shaped by your questions and suggestions tonight.

We will plan a series later in the year under the title "Welcome to the Church of England."

Our church family motto:
“walking in truth, living in love”

2 John 4 (AV):

- “I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.”

1 John 4.16b:

- “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.”

Truth and Love in the Old Testament ...

- The Lord reveals his character to Moses:
 - “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished ...” (Exodus 34.6-7)
- God’s people praise him for it:
 - “For the LORD is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

... and in the New:

- In John's prologue:
 - "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1.14; see v15-18)
- And in his second letter:
 - "Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love."
(v3)

This is the gospel:

- Our guilt, need and enmity is met by grace, mercy and peace ...
- ... in the God who is “truth and love” in Jesus; gracious and faithful.

This is our *response* to the gospel:

- “I love in the truth” (v1)
- “walking in the truth ... love one another ... obedience to his commands” (v4-6)
- “his command is that you walk in [it]” (v6)

When we divide truth and love ...

- without truth, love becomes sentimental, selfish and sinful; and
- without love, truth becomes cold, harsh and judgemental.
- When we lose one, we lose gospel power and authenticity: Bill and Ben, 2 John 7-11.

But when we hold them together:

- "... speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." (Eph. 4:15)



The Evening Collect

Lighten our darkness, Lord:
and by your great mercy defend us
from all peril and danger this night;
for the love of your only Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.